



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE

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February 8, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Jon W. Fullinwider
Chief Information Officer

Subject: **STOLEN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DESKTOP COMPUTER
CONTAINING CONFIDENTIAL/SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

On February 1, 2008, three County desktop computers and other personal items were stolen from the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Antelope Valley Mental Health Center in Lancaster. One of the computers, owned by Department of Public Health (DPH), contained confidential/sensitive information on the local drive.

This DPH-owned computer contained 43 client/patient records related to the Nurse-Family Partnership and Prenatal Care Guidance Program. All records contained name, address, phone number, mother's date of birth and the child's date of birth. Forty records contained Medi-Cal numbers and three contained social security numbers.

This breach of information affects Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance due to exposure of electronic Personal Health Information (ePHI) and the County's HIPAA Privacy Officer and County Counsel have been notified. The State Department of Health Services (DHS) has also been notified due to the exposure of Medi-Cal information. The County and the State DHS will collaborate in developing a notification to these impacted clients.

My Office, DMH, and DPH will examine methods to improve security measures for this location. Also, we will be investigating alternatives to minimize the storage of personal/confidential information on desktop computers.

My Office will continue to provide status information on the investigation, remediation and notification process as actions are taken.

If there are questions or concerns, please contact me at 213.974.2008, Al Brusewitz, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), at (562) 940-3873 or Robert Pittman, Assistant CISO, at 562.940-2724; or via e-mail at jfullinwider@cio.lacounty.gov, abrusewitz@cio.lacounty.gov or rpittman@cio.lacounty.gov, respectively.

JWF:RP:AB
GM:ygd

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
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Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
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